

Minutes
Joint Legislative Program Evaluation Oversight Committee Meeting
May 8, 2008

Members Present

Co-Chair, Senator Daniel Clodfelter
Co-Chair, Senator Fletcher Hartsell
Senator Charlie Albertson
Senator Malcolm Graham
Senator Martin Nesbitt
Senator Robert Pittenger
Senator Richard Stevens

Co-Chair, Representative James Crawford
Co-Chair, Representative Drew Saunders
Representative Linda Coleman
Representative Bruce Goforth
Representative Hugh Holliman
Representative James Langdon, Jr.
Representative David Lewis
Representative Paul Luebke

Members Absent

Senator Linda Garrou
Senator Clark Jenkins

Representative Carolyn Justice

Former Members of the Government Performance Audit Committee Present

Representative Jim Harrell
Representative Mickey Michaux

Call to Order

Co-Chair Senator Fletcher Hartsell presiding, called the meeting to order.

Actions Taken

The Committee approved the *Minutes* of the March 26, 2008 meeting as presented.

Senator Hartsell presented draft bill language prepared by Committee Counsel, Hal Pell. The language clarifies when documents prepared by the Program Evaluation Division become available to the public. The draft revised an earlier version approved by the Committee on March 26, 2008. The committee approved the revised draft.

Reports and Appearances

Senator Hartsell announced that the Committee would be hearing two reports that required no Committee action and that no motions would be in order. The Program Evaluation Division prepared the reports pursuant to the 2007 Appropriations Act and formally submitted them May 3, 2008 directly to the House and Senate Appropriations Subcommittees on Natural and Economic Resources and to the Director of the Fiscal Research Division. Senator Hartsell explained that the Joint Legislative Program Evaluation Oversight Committee would hear the reports because the committee oversees the Program Evaluation Division.

Senator Charlie Albertson requested the Chair to introduce the staff of the Program Evaluation Division.

Senator Hartsell recognized Mr. John Turcotte, Director of the Program Evaluation Division (PED). Mr. Turcotte introduced the PED staff. Mr. Turcotte introduced Michele Beck, Senior Program Evaluator. Beck presented the report *Improving Regional Economic Development through Structural Changes and Performance Measurement Incentive* and responded to Committee questions.

Senator Hartsell recognized Ms. Stephanie McGarrah, Assistant Secretary for Policy/Research and Strategic Planning of the Department of Commerce to provide a brief response to the report. Ms. McGarrah noted a letter from Secretary Fain on the last page of the Division's report and that the Secretary would be willing to meet with any of members if there are any further questions.

Senator Hartsell recognized Mr. Ronnie Bryant, President and CEO of the Charlotte Regional Partnership along with Chairmen: Jane Smith, Southeast; Tommy Jenkins, Advantage West; and Keith Vaughan from the Piedmont Triad. Mr. Bryant responded on behalf of all of the partnerships. The PED report contains Mr. Bryant's written response.

Senator Hartsell recognized Mr. Paul Butler, Director of the Southeastern Partnership to respond to Senator Daniel Clodfelter's question about the nature of non-profit corporations created by the partnerships that are state agencies. Mr. Butler explained that the Southeastern Partnership governing board had formed two non-profits: a 501(c)(3) and a 501(c)(6), which consist of the same members as the Partnership governing board. When the Partnership board adjourns, the members continue meeting as the 501(c)(3), and in turn adjourn and meet as the 501(c)(6).

The Committee recessed until 11:30 AM.

Senator Hartsell introduced Carol Ripple, Principal Program Evaluator of the PED. Ripple presented *Consolidating Agricultural Research Facility Management Would Improve Efficiency and Effectiveness* and responded to member questions.

Senator Hartsell introduced the Commissioner of Agriculture, Steve Troxler, to respond to the report. The PED report contains the Commissioner's written response.

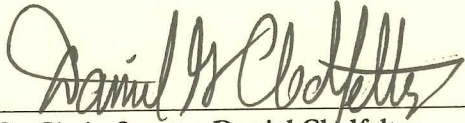
Senator Hartsell introduced Dr. Alton Thompson, Dean of NCA&T School of Agriculture, to respond to the report. The PED report contains Dr. Thompson's written response.

Senator Hartsell introduced Dr. Johnnie C. Wynne, Dean and Executive Director for Agricultural Programs of the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences of North Carolina State University. The PED report contains Dr. Wynne's written response.

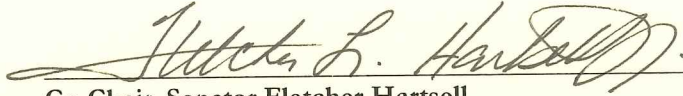
Adjournment

Senator Hartsell announced that action on the review of the state personnel system is deferred until the next meeting date to be determined by the Co-Chairs. Senator Hartsell stated that the Program Evaluation Division's first pending report on Mental Health would be heard as soon as reasonably possible. With no further business before the committee, the committee adjourned.

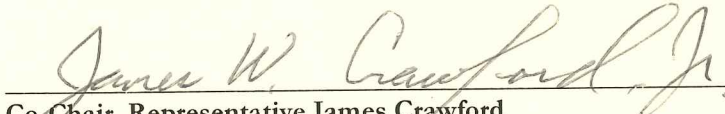
APPROVAL OF May 8, 2008 MINUTES:



Co-Chair, Senator Daniel Clodfelter



Co-Chair, Senator Fletcher Hartsell



Co-Chair, Representative James Crawford



Co-Chair, Representative Drew Saunders